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2014 Annual Report of the Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS)

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FROM SAFETEA-LU TO MAP-21

On July 6, 2012, President Obama signed into law PL 112-14, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). This new transportation bill authorizes and funds federal surface transportation programs for two years, taking effect on October 1, 2012 and expiring on September 30, 2014. MAP-21 succeeds the expired transportation bill SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users).

MAP-21 re-authorizes the federal highway, public transportation, highway safety, and motor carrier safety programs through Fiscal Year 2014. The Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS) is designated to carry out the transportation planning process required by SAFETEA-LU and now MAP-21 as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Establishment of this process enables BCATS and other transportation agencies in the BCATS area to receive federal funding for a variety of transportation projects including reconstruction and resurfacing of roads & bridges, purchase of transit vehicles, highway & transit safety improvements and non-motorized projects that will efficiently maximize the mobility of people and goods within and through the Bay City urbanized area.

Currently, the BCATS area includes the cities of Bay City and Essexville and the townships of Bangor, Kawawlin, Monitor, Frankenlust, Portsmouth, and Hampton. This is known as the urban transportation planning area.

BCATS COMMITTEES

The Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS) is comprised of two committees: the Policy Committee and the Technical Committee. The Policy Committee is made up of mostly elected officials from township, city, and county government. The Technical Committee is made up of transportation planning and engineering professionals from the community. Both committees also have representatives from the Michigan and U.S. Departments of Transportation. The Technical Committee provides valuable expert advice to the Policy Committee on various matters which it must address. The Policy Committee must give final local approval to all plans and projects in the Bay City urbanized area which use federal funding.

The Policy Committee usually meets on the third Wednesday of every other month at the Bay County Building, 515 Center Avenue, Bay City, Michigan. The Technical Committee meets at the same location, usually on the second Tuesday in the same months as the Policy Committee.

Interested persons are always welcome to attend the meetings or call one of the following Technical Committee members to discuss transportation issues of interest:

Jay Anderson, BCATS Director (989) 895-4245
Bay County Transportation Planning Division
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Bay Metro Transportation Authority
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Jim Lillo, Engineer – Manager (989) 686-4610
Bay County Road Commission
2600 East Beaver Road
Kawawlin, MI 48631
jlillo@baycoroad.org

Daniel Hansford, Director (989) 893-6101
City of Essexville Department of Public Works
1500 Pine Street
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The County of Bay will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing upon ten (10) days notice to the County of Bay. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aides or services should contact the County of Bay by writing or calling:

Tim Quinn, Personnel Relations Director
515 Center Avenue – Suite 301
Bay City, MI 48708
(989) 895-4098
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BCATS ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Michigan Asset Management Council was created by Public Act 499 of 2002. To meet the requirements of the Act, the eleventh year of a statewide review of paved federal-aid roadways was conducted using resources of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and other local agencies. This year, the state elected to collect data on the remaining half of the federal aid system after collecting half in 2013. In Bay County, BCATS teamed with the City of Bay City, MDOT and the Bay County Road Commission to inventory the surface condition of 295 miles of streets and highways. Of the roads rated in the twelfth year, the data indicates that 5% of the federal-aid roadways in Bay County were rated in good condition, 35% in fair condition, and 60% were rated in poor condition.

BCATS 4 YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This year marked the first year of the BCATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the fiscal years of 2014/15/16/17. The program includes approximately \$74 million in transportation and transit projects that will be completed over the four year period. It lists all of the federally funded transportation projects within the Bay City Urbanized Area that will enhance the safety and efficiency of the transportation system, from I-75 reconstruction to Bay Metro Transit Authority bus replacement to transportation alternative projects. The 2014/17 TIP was initially prepared by BCATS staff during 2013 with input from the local implementing agencies (Bay City, Bay County Road Commission, Bay Metro Transportation Authority, and Essexville), MDOT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the public and has been amended since for the addition or adjustment to various projects. The proposed program of projects will become the final program of projects unless modified and a final notice is published. The TIP is available for viewing on the Bay County Transportation Planning website or at the BCATS office.

Projects that were constructed in 2014 utilizing federal funds (but not limited to):

Michigan Department of Transportation

- Preliminary Engineering for US-10 Bridge Replacement over I-75
- Electrical repairs on Veterans Memorial Bridge

Bay County Road Commission

- North Union Road Rehabilitation from Two Mile Road to Euclid Avenue

City of Bay City

- Reconstruction of Saginaw Street from 6th Street to 10th Street

City of Essexville

- Woodside Avenue Resurfacing from Scheurmann Street to Pine Street

Bay Metro Transit Authority

- Continue bus and vehicle replacement program

Upcoming 2015 Projects:

Michigan Department of Transportation

- US-10 Bridge Replacement over I-75
- Preliminary Engineering for I-75 Resurfacing from M-13 Connector to Beaver Road
- M-25 Resurfacing from Pine Road to Tuscola/Bay County Line

City of Bay City

- Center Avenue Resurfacing from Water Street to Madison Avenue

Bay County Road Commission

- Salzburg Road Rehabilitation from Four Mile Road to Mackinaw Road
- Old Beaver/Russell Street Road Bridge Preventive Maintenance (near Kawawlin)

Bay Metro Transit Authority

- Continue bus and vehicle replacement program

A complete listing of FY 2014 obligated projects and the full version of the approved 2014/17 TIP can be viewed on the BCATS website.



North Union Road

NORTH UNION ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

North Union Road received a much needed upgrade during the 2014 construction season. This project included reconstruction of North Union Road, Euclid Avenue (M-13) to Two Mile Road in Bangor Township. The scope of the project included new storm sewer installation, intersection upgrades, asphalt roadway with six foot paved shoulders, safety improvements, signing and pavement markings. The six foot paved shoulder portion of this project completed a long range goal set in 2006 which began with the installation of the sidewalks and a bike lane on Kiesel Road and Two Mile Road respectively. These non-motorized facilities were constructed through a Safe Routes to School Program grant specifically for students attending John Glenn High School and Christa McAuliffe Middle School. They provide a dedicated path for students walking or biking to and from these schools. The six foot shoulders installed as part of the North Union Reconstruction Project now allow access for those living along North Union Road or the subdivisions that access it, to connect the Two Mile Road and Kiesel Road facilities. The shoulders also allow non-motorized traffic to access Euclid Avenue and the City of Bay City. BCATS provided \$720,000 for this project with the Bay County Road Commission contributing the required local match portion of \$280,000.



Woodside Avenue

WOODSIDE AVENUE RESURFACING

At a cost of \$161,076 from the General Fund and a Federal participation of 85%, the City of Essexville installed asphalt paving and new ADA compliant sidewalk ramps along Woodside Avenue from Pine Street to Scheurmann Street. BCATS provided the initial funding of \$8,500 for the engineering by Rowe and Associates. The construction engineer was HRC Inc. and the Prime Contractor was A.J. Rehms & Son. The project began the second week of June 2014 and was completed the end of August 2014.

BAY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (BMTA)

In 2014, fixed route bus service was provided to 64,000 seniors, 256,000 passengers with disabilities, and 240,000 full and student fare passengers for an overall ridership of 570,000. Ridership for Dial-A-Ride Transportation (DART), demand-response service for seniors and disabled, was 51,000 in 2014. Bay Metro Transit operated over 1.475 million service miles during the year. Since service began in 1974, Bay Metro has transported over 28 million passengers.

BMTA also subcontracted 21,000 additional rides to local, private carriers. Local, private carriers assist BMTA DART service in daytime "overflow" situations, as well as providing transportation to area agencies representing senior and disabled passengers. BMTA receives funding from the State under the Specialized Services Program to offset a portion of the expense of reimbursing the local carriers for their service. Since the end of 2007, BMTA has supplemented funding and expanded service to individuals in need of transportation to work before and after BMTA service hours under the State's Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) Program. In 2014, the local carrier provided over 10,000 JARC rides.

Bay Metro Transit began upgrades to the Central Bus Station in 2013 using MDOT Intercity Program funds. Upgrades include ADA compliant restroom improvements, energy efficient lighting, security features, and new signage. Bay Metro also secured State and Federal grants in 2013 for the replacement of some of their aging buses and vans.

BCATS WEBSITE UPDATES

BCATS has recently updated their website. Available for download on the website are the most recent 2014-15-16-17 Transportation Improvement Program and 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Public Participation Plan, the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan and complaint form, Technical and Policy Committee meeting minutes & agendas, traffic counts, various maps, and assorted transportation related links.

The direct web page is available at: <http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/transportation>.



BCATS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN COMPLETED

In 2014, BCATS completed a Public Participation Plan. The Public Participation Plan shall dictate the methods of the publication for the Transportation Improvement Program, Transportation Plan, and Public Participation Plan to make it readily available for public review and comment. The Public Participation Plan will be monitored and reviewed periodically to evaluate its effectiveness.